West. Theo. Sem. April 3 1848

Dear Brethren

It is ever gratifying to us to hear from those who take an interest in our welfare, and especially from those looking forward to the sam great work. At present we are forcibly reminded of the fleetness of time, and of the transient natu of earthly things. Another winter has passed awa and the spring time is here — the singing of birds has come. Another session of our sister institutions is near a close. Soon those who have ofte taken sweet counsel together and walked to the house of God in company will seperate for their particular homes or their respective fields of labor And many will meet no more in the flesh. May we all be prepared to meet in the 'Genera Assembly and Church of the first born in heaven' But whilst here below may God grant us knowledg and ability to discharge well our duties, and may we all be prepared to shine as stars forev and ever because we have been instrumental in turning many to righteousness.'

With feelings of deep regret are we compelled to say that Missionary zeal is at a low ebb in our midst. According to our present information we know of no one of our present Senior class that has dedicated himself to the work of Foreign Missions. This is no doubt owing to the low state of piety in our midst. The presen of the Lord is not in this vicinity as in days past prayer has been restrained. The life and power of godliness, in their practical efficiency, seem to hav departed. A benumbing torpor broods over our churches. And alas, we have imbibed and cherished the same chilling spirit. Therefore no leaders for the advanced guard of the Redeemer's host go out from our midst. Still we would not mourn as those who have no hope. From some intimatio it is most probable that one or two of the membe of the other classes will, at the proper time, go far hence to the gentiles. And if the Lord in his great goodness would revive his work there would not only these be encouraged to go forward but others might be induced to do likewise, in obedien to the Redeemer's last command. The Lord is doi great things in other parts of our land whe of we would be glad. Yet our hearts fondly ask, has he not even one blessing for us? We would wait his own good time earnestly, praying that our eyes may soon be permitt to see the salvation of the Lord. Yea we hope th he will pass by this way and cause us to enjoy his gracious presence. Then sinners wi be converted unto God and a true missio ary fervor will be excited in the hearts of his people, and laborers would continually go forth to gather in the mighty harvest that is perishing for want of reapers

It is a lamentable fact that so little interest is taken by the mass of Christians in the great subject of Missions. Undoubtedly a want of large and correct information is a principal cause. And it is equally beyond dispute that much of this ignorance has been produced by the negligence of their spiritual instructors. This is an evil that must be removed. — We hope that we feel its magnitude in its just proportions, and looking to God for assistance we will endeavor as much as in us lies to wipe away this reproach from the ministry of reconciliation. Missionary operations constitute a system, and the people must be educated and made to understand it in all its important bearings. Then a seed will arise to serve the Lord who will be more ardent and more faithful than their fathers have been. And soon the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God. Brethren pray for us. — May God in his unspeakable goodness enrich you with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus is the fervent prayer of

Your Brethren in the Lord

Sam Wilson. Cor. Sec.

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